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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATOR FOR 1990 AND PROGRAMME-LEVEL ACTIVITIES

Non-governmental and grass-roots organizations

1. In accordance with Governing Council resolutions 86/14 of 27 June 1986, 87/10 of 1 July 1987, 88/27 of 30 June 1988, 89/26 of 30 July 1989, and 90/18 of 22 June 1990, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has continued to expand its co-operation with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and grass-roots organizations in activities to further community-based participatory development, encourage and support people's efforts to help themselves, and promote sustainable development. UNDP works with NGOs and grass-roots organizations and seeks to strengthen the capacities of indigenous groups, because it recognizes the key role such organizations play in human development and in areas identified by the Governing Council in decision 90/34 of 23 June 1990 as especially relevant to fifth cycle programming: poverty eradication and grass-roots participation in development; preservation of the environment and natural resources management; management development; technical co-operation among developing countries; transfer and adaptation of technology for development; and women in development.

I. SUPPORT FOR NGO ACTIVITIES AND NGO CAPACITY-BUILDING

2. In five African countries (Benin, Gambia, Mauritania, Senegal and Togo), the UNDP grass-roots initiatives support funds continue to provide small grants and loans to impoverished segments of the population for self-help initiatives. These funds are also currently being established in Burkina Faso, Guinea and Zaire.

3. In 1990, 60 countries participated in the Partners in Development Programme, a programme which allows Resident Representatives to make grants for direct support of NGO activities, up to a total of $25,000 per country. Over 400 awards have been made in the three years since the programme was launched, mainly for

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community-based participatory development activities, including micro-enterprises and income-generating activities. The Partners in Development Programme is currently funded by allocations totalling $5 million from Special Programme Resources (SPR) and the Special Measures Fund for the Least Developed Countries (SMF/LDC). Positive findings from an evaluation carried out in October are being used as a basis for seeking additional funding from bilateral and other sources.

4. The Africa 2000 Network, an African regional programme to support activities by NGOs and grass-roots organizations working to preserve the environment and promote ecologically sustainable development, is now fully operational in eight African countries: Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ghana, Kenya, Rwanda, Senegal, Uganda and Zimbabwe. It also has partial structures in, or is being extended to, Benin, Lesotho and Zambia. Approximately 90 awards, mainly ranging from $1,000 to $50,000, have been made to date. A similar programme, the Asia-Pacific 2000 Initiative, designed to support environmental activities by Asian NGOs and grass-roots groups, especially in urban areas, is planned for 1991. A similar regional initiative is under consideration for Latin America.

5. Contributions by NGOs to preparations for the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) are being supported under the 1990-1991 environment and sustainable development umbrella project funded from SPR and donor cost-sharing. Activities being supported include NGO contributions to national preparatory processes in selected developing countries and participation by developing-country NGOs in regional and international UNCED preparatory meetings.

II. INCREASED CO-OPERATION AMONG GOVERNMENTS, UNDP AND NGOs

6. The Regional Bureaux and the Division for Non-Governmental Organizations have also collaborated closely in activities to bring about greater understanding, communication and co-operation, at country and regional levels, among Governments, United Nations agencies and NGOs. In Africa, the Regional Project to Strengthen Collaboration between NGOs, Governments and UNDP in Africa (RAF/87/001) is now providing services to Governments and NGOs in 25 countries. Activities have included 27 country missions to discuss activities which would respond to national needs, five national consultations involving representatives from Governments and NGOs, support for government units concerned with NGOs, and assistance to eight regional and national NGO associations. The project also organized a regional workshop on participatory development, involving representatives from Governments, United Nations agencies and NGOs, in December in Burkina Faso.

7. A similar workshop on participatory development and co-operation with NGOs was held in the Philippines in March. Two additional workshops will be held in the Arab States region in 1991. Preparations have also been initiated for a major Arab States regional project to strengthen NGOs and help them to broaden their base.

8. The unique role being played by NGOs in Cambodia was reviewed by a UNDP-led inter-agency mission to Cambodia in October. The mission laid the groundwork for future collaboration between the NGOs, which have been working in Cambodia for a number of years, and bilateral/multilateral aid agencies when they renew their assistance to Cambodia.

9. UNDP has also actively contributed to several United Nations conferences focusing on human development, participatory development and/or poverty alleviation, including the International Conference on Popular Participation held in Arusha in February 1990; the World Conference on Education for All in Jomtien in March 1990; and the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in Paris in September 1990.